



INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITYPROJECT



Women from the community of New Reddigudem, in Andhra Pradesh, India, where villagers displaced by a dam have campaigned successfully for better living conditions and rehabilitation resources at their resettlement site.

T H A N K Y O U
for your
support & solidarity.

All donations to the IAP are tax-deductible.

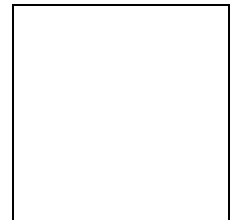
Checks can be made payable to "IAP/SEE"

(IAP is a project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), a registered public charity that provides non-profit status.)

Donations can also be made by credit card on our website through the "Donate Now" button.

INTERNATIONAL
ACCOUNTABILITYPROJECT

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Every year, millions of people around the world are forcibly uprooted in the name of 'development' and 'progress.'

The International Accountability Project (IAP) challenges unjust displacement by exposing and demanding accountability for the human rights impacts of development-induced displacement. We exert strategic pressure on the international banks and corporations that finance projects causing displacement, while strengthening communities' power to hold their ground and defend their fundamental human rights.

I A P Update F A L L 2 0 0 7

In the past year, IAP has...

- Responded to request from *NGO Forum on the Asian Development Bank*—an Asian-led network of over 80 civil society groups—to provide campaign support and analyses on the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Involuntary Resettlement policy, to demand stronger protections for local people.
- Submitted comprehensive policy analysis to the ADB, highlighting failure to meet international best practice. The Bank's revised policy includes IAP input and language.
- Initiated the *Peoples' Guide to Displacement: Rights, Risks and Resistance*, a collaborative popular education resource for communities threatened with forced resettlement.
- Created a new IAP program area: *Arts & Media for Resistance*.

Dear friends of the IAP,

Next week marks one year since I joined the IAP as Director of Programs. As I take a moment to think back on all this year has held, I find myself struck by a conversation with an incredible colleague from India. During a strategy meeting in Bangkok with our partners from the Asia-wide civil society network *NGO Forum on the Asian Development Bank*, he pulled me aside after a presentation.



IAP's Joanna Levitt and two Cambodian colleagues, co-presentors at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meetings in Japan in May 2007. The panel highlighted injustices in ADB policy and practice on involuntary resettlement.

"Joanna," he said, "we are so glad that you and Dana are continuing this work. The struggle against involuntary resettlement is so important in my country, the injustice so massive, these banks and companies so powerful. IAP's work and solidarity—and the spirit you bring to it—are so important to this struggle."

For a moment I was struck speechless by his words, humbled and overwhelmed.

It is a sentiment I have since heard multiple times from partners who live and work on the frontlines of struggles against unjust displacement. Each time, it deepens my resolve to ensure that IAP can respond fully and strategically to calls for our support.

As the *only international advocacy organization dedicated to systematically challenging unjust development-induced displacement*, we have worked hard during the past year to enable IAP to maintain—and expand—the forms of support we provide to our partners. In addition to successfully pushing for **policy reform** in international financial institutions (such as the Asia Development Bank) to strengthen protections for communities threatened with involuntary resettlement, we are also developing new **popular education materials** for communities in struggle, and **growing as an organization**—with new program areas (such as our new *Arts & Media for Resistance* program), and incredible new staff.

Along the way we have been supported in so many ways by our community—by our NGO partners here and abroad, by our donors, by words of wisdom and encouragement from colleagues and friends. **T h a n k y o u** for all you do that empowers us to hold institutions accountable and help communities hold their ground.

- Joanna Levitt, IAP Director of Programs

The International Accountability Project (IAP) works to bring an end to unjust displacement through hard-hitting campaigns, critical research and policy analysis, popular education resources, and creative use of media and arts. In solidarity with a global network of organizations and communities, we work toward a world in which **human connection to land, vibrant communities, healthy ecosystems, and democratic decision-making** are not bulldozed as 'obstacles' to development, but rather are defended as the foundation for just and sustainable life on Earth.

A Message from IAP Founder

Dear friends of the IAP,

I want to thank you all for your interest in and support for the International Accountability Project. How exciting to have our first newsletter!

The IAP is continuing to fight an important battle in the ongoing struggle for human rights and environmental justice. Involuntary resettlement—or forced displacement of people from their lands and livelihoods by ‘development’ projects such as dams, pipelines, and power plants—is a devastating practice that is tolerated and encouraged by the dominant international development model. The IAP is filling an important niche, working directly with impacted communities and also in the international policy arena to demand greater respect for the rights of affected communities and to empower those threatened with displacement to defend their rights. In 2003, I founded the IAP to hold institutions accountable and empower communities as partners in that process.

As many of you know, I am now wearing multiple hats. Last year, I joined Rainforest Action Network’s Global Finance team, which is working to transform the lending practices of private banks. I continue to serve as President of the IAP, offering guidance and support to the team as needed. Joanna Levitt has taken over the management of the IAP and has done a superb job in advancing our work, as you will see in this newsletter and on our website (www.accountabilityproject.org). I am tremendously proud of all the work that Joanna and Molly have been doing, and we are also grateful for the fabulous support we receive from Sue, Genevieve and others. We are also laying plans to expand our staff and bring on board new skill sets and brainpower to address the multi-faceted challenges of this work.

On a personal note, it’s worth mentioning that I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, last year and married a wonderful person. And, I am now the proud mother of a beautiful baby boy, Rio. Finally, because Salt Lake City can be choked with horrible air quality, I am a co-founder of a new group called the Utah Moms for Clean Air. Never a dull moment!

To all of you—friends, long-time supporters and those who are just learning about the IAP—thank you so much for your continued support. I am thrilled that the IAP is thriving.

Peace,

Dana Clark, IAP President and Founder

IAP initiates work on the *Peoples’ Guide to Displacement: Rights, Risks and Resistance:*

A resource for communities threatened with forced displacement and involuntary resettlement



Villagers from the town of Cheeduru—in Andhra Pradesh, India—discuss their concerns about the planned Polavaram dam project with IAP summer fellow Nina Robertson. Cheeduru villagers are primarily fisherpeople and depend on the Godavari River and the nearby forests as a main source of livelihood. The Polovaram dam project would submerge this region, and villagers would be resettled to an un-irrigated, deforested area 70 km away.

NINA ROBERTSON, IAP RESEARCH FELLOW, SUMMER 2007

This summer, I spent two months in India and Thailand as a Research Fellow with IAP. I visited communities threatened with displacement, met with over 30 advocacy groups and leaders working to defend displaced peoples’ rights, and attended four regional conferences on the issue. My work lay the groundwork for the IAP’s *Peoples’ Guide to Displacement: Rights, Risks and Resistance*.

My experience both saddened and inspired me. Everywhere I went, communities were confronting imminent displacement as dams are constructed downstream. They told me their stories, invited me into their homes, and shared with me the strategies, hopes and vision that will inform the *Peoples’ Guide*. I learned about the massive hydropower complexes planned for the Northeast of India, the wide range of new mines and “Special Economic Zones” slated to cover large expanses of land all over the country, and the mega infrastructure projects planned for Thailand and its Mekong neighbors.

I also saw strong and growing peoples’ movements, and had the privilege to meet some visionary community leaders who shared invaluable insights and strategies for resistance. Many expressed great interest in the *Peoples’ Guide* and in being part of the process to draft and distribute this vital resource.

I will continue to stay connected to IAP as the Guide is developed. Carrying with me the powerful experiences of this summer, I will focus my graduate studies in law and policy on developing tools to fight for justice and accountability in international development.

-Nina Robertson

Nina is currently a candidate for a joint Masters in International and Public Affairs (MPA) and Juris Doctorate degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University and Stanford Law School.



The Crisis of Development-induced Displacement:

Though it receives far less international attention than conflicts or environmental disasters, **development-induced displacement is the single largest cause of forced migration worldwide.** Every year, approximately 15 million people across the globe are forcibly displaced from their homes, communities and lands to make way for large ‘development’ projects such as mines, dams, power plants, infrastructure and plantations. The displacement often comes hand in hand with egregious corruption, coercion and violence to force people from their homes, and systematic failure to uphold commitments to compensate, resettle and rehabilitate the displaced peoples—whose entire economic, social and cultural base is often devastated in the process.

Those who are forcibly displaced by such projects are almost invariably the people and communities who can least afford to be uprooted and further impoverished—they are the rural and urban poor, they are indigenous peoples whose survival is based on their land, they are minority groups, often without political voice or legal title to land. In addition to constituting an enormous violation of fundamental human rights, this displacement exacerbates poverty, social unrest, land degradation and loss of cultural and biological diversity.

The recent report *Human Tide: the real migration crisis* (May 2007), by the international human rights organization Christian Aid, predicts:

As the effects of climate change join and exacerbate the conflicts, natural disasters and development projects that drive displacement, we fear that an **emerging migration crisis will spiral out of control...** Based on current trends, a further **1 billion people** will be forced from their homes between now and 2050. *We believe forced migration is the most urgent threat facing poor people in developing countries. The time for action is now.*

The IAP continues to be the only international advocacy organization working to systematically challenge the unjust ‘development’ projects and policies that drive massive—and often unnecessary—displacement. Join us in taking action to address this crisis.

In the coming year, IAP will...

- Double in size as an organization, to four full-time program staff, plus two part-time staff.

- In association with WITNESS, hold a video advocacy workshop for displacement activists in Asia who want to use film as a powerful tool in their struggles for justice.

- Continue to play a lead role in campaigns targeting both public and private banks to establish stronger policy protections against unjust displacement.

- Launch the *Peoples' Guide to Displacement* by holding four regional trainings in South Asia and Southeast Asia with community leaders and displacement activists.

- Develop the Latin American version of the *People's Guide to Displacement*, in close collaboration with partner groups.

IAP's new program area: Arts and Media for Resistance

Images, film, sound, voices, music and creative expression are powerful and necessary tools for exposing injustice, opening minds and inspiring social change.

IAP's new *Arts & Media for Resistance* program equips communities with skills, tools and connections to capture their realities and voices—and make these heard and seen in the media, by other communities in struggle, and by decision-makers in high-level corporate and institutional halls of power. Through creative and strategic use of film, photo, radio and diverse art forms, IAP and our allies can dramatically enhance both our rights-education work and our advocacy campaigns.



IAP's Molly Clinehens, coordinator of Arts & Media for Resistance program, with Virna Lati Gallego at a resettlement site in the Philippines for communities displaced by the North Railway Project.

As our first major pilot project for the program, we are proud to be working with WITNESS (www.witness.org), a leading international organization that empowers grassroots groups to successfully integrate video as a tool in their campaigns to expose and challenge human rights abuses.



IAP will convene a Video Advocacy Workshop in Asia for activists who want to use film in their campaigns challenging unjust displacement. WITNESS will share a proven strategy for using video to inspire change. The individual and collective film products will contribute to the building of a regional movement around this human rights issue, with video advocacy as a critical tool.